of persons acquitted during the past three years in smuggling cases is given in the table below:—

| | 1986 | 1987 | 1988 |
|---|---|---|---|
| (i)Number of persons arrested • | 2900 | 2480 | 3253' |
| (ii)Number of personss prosecuted. | 2587 | 2531 | 2231* |
| (iii) Number of persons convicted. | 871 | 744 | 750* |
| (jv)Number of persons acquitted. | 235 | 300 | 243* |

* The figures are provisional

** The figures under these rows include convictions, acquittal of persons arrested in previous years.

**Cases pending before the Customs and Central Excise authorities**

254. SHRI M. VINCENT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of investigations and prosecutions pending with the Customs and Central Excise authorities against big business houses as on 31st January,, 1989;

(b) what is the number of such cases which have been dropped or withdrawn as on date;

(c) whether Government have issued any directive to the Customs and Central Excise in this regard; and

(d) if so, to what effect and under which provisions of law?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT. OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) to (d) The number of show cause notices and prosecutions pending as on 31.1.1989 against companies registered under section 26 of the M.R.T.P. Act, 1969 and belonging to the top'20 business houses ranked according to their assets for the year 1986-87, is given below:—

| Department | No. of show cause notice! pending as on 31.1.1989. | No. of prosecutions Pendings as on 31.1.1989 |
|---|---|---|
| CENTRAL EXCISE | 2124 | 10 |
| CUSTOMS | 6 | NIL |

The number of show cause notices which have been dropped or withdrawn against the above business houses during the period 1.4.1988 to 31.1.1989 is ; —

| | |
|---|---|
| CENTRAL EXCISE | 445 |
| CUSTOMS | |

No prosecutions against the above business houses have been dropped or withdrawn during the period 1.4.1988 to 31.1.1989.

The Government have not issued any directives to the Customs and Central Excise authorities for either dropping or withdrawing any investigation, show cause notice or prosecution against the above business houses.

**Mobilisation of resources by the nationalised banks**

255. SHRI M. VINCENT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the names of the first five-leading nationalised banks which have mobilised maximum deposits in the calendar year 1988;